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On Behalf Of:
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Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1501

A professional sports team and organization trying once again to fleece the taxpayers and their fans under the guise of 'providing economic benefit' while pocketing the change. Another example of why the government should not be involved with private sports entities like baseball and basketball. Look no further than the Hillsboro Hops being forced to upgrade by that organization - to what end? Pick any pro-sport city and recognize the pro team will leave and when they do the next 'great' team will need a renovated [i.e. more likely a new] stadium to meet current needs. The MODA Center has a sponsor name and has had several renovations in the past to 'update' their facilities [bathrooms, sponsor levels/skyboxes, food courts, etc]. The financially irresponsible City of Portland pledging anything is laughable - they freely admitted it is going to be a 'tax' [by another name] on the fans, employees and others who park and use the MODA center - next they will 'discover' another \$120 million that will 'become available' to redirect to this sports boondoggle.

Any legislation that intends to solve the problem by guaranteeing a team to stay by contract will simply go away and be rewritten when everyone realizes the cost to enforce that contract and sue or get out of the contract when the team/organization becomes a miserable failure or when the next line of promises comes from a sports organization.

Oppose this measure and do not become involved - let the financiers and sponsors pay their way, the infrastructure is in place thanks to taxpayers; the 'economic benefit' and 'employment benefits' should be the reward for that not a carrot in front of the cart druggers. Oregon has too many other issues at hand than to be getting fleeced by professional sports.